

WECU

MINUTES

Zoom Meeting - Thursday 21 July 2022 starting at 7:00pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Guy Greenland introduced the Meeting (intended to be a Council Meeting).

However, it became apparent that due to the lack of a quorum (the presence of at least 5 members – as pointed out by Phil Meade), the Council Meeting could not go ahead as planned. Instead, it was decided to discuss items on the agenda as far as possible. The Election of Officers is a Council Meeting item only and therefore deferred.

Present: Nikki Forster (NF), Jon Underwood (JU), Phil Meade (PM) & Guy Greenland (GG)

Apologies were received from:

Ian George, Oliver Wensley, Kevin Markey, John Wheeler & Meyrick Shaw.

2. Minutes of last Zoom meeting

Circulated and agreed

3. Matters arising

Nikki Forster to be President subject to vote at Council Meeting
(date / venue to be arranged by GG)

GG continued to chair meeting

4. Officer's reports

President: No report. (K Markey not able to attend Meeting due to a technical difficulty with connection)

Secretary: GG grateful to K Markey for arranging last two Zoom Meetings (as GG could not attend them)

Treasurer: Oliver Wensley submitted a report by email, reproduced here –

In terms of the treasurer account, not much action has occurred in the last 12 months. I have just settled the ECF national stages bill for Devon (Open/Minor and U1850) & Hants (U1850) but this will be recovered directly from those counties respectively.

Balance of Main treasurer account as of today 19/7/22 = £476.06

Balance of WECU savings account as of today 19/7/22 = £2,222.29

Attached are screenshots of the balance.

I appreciate there are larger discussions to be had about the overall direction of WECU but, if possible, clarification is required on the following points:

- We agreed to waive the affiliation fee for counties in 2020-21 (£11 per county) owing to Covid. I have not charged for 2021-22 either but I need to check with everyone if these should have been recovered or not.
- Similar to the above but for County Championship fees (normally £10 per county per entry). I don't think there was a county champs on-line in either of the last two years (just national competitions)?
- I'd like to establish the charges for affiliation & county championship for 2022-23. As a default / recommendation it can remain as £11 & £10 (as noted above) unless people feel strongly otherwise. County fees will obviously be dependent on participation but if we do an online championship do we stick to the £10 per entry?

I can see Meyrick is cc'd in & he is treasurer for the WECU Congress account. I am not sure what the state of this is but I think Meyrick was looking to pass it over to the new organiser(s) should one emerge. Last time I audited the account for Meyrick it was back in 2014. The balance then was £2,090.25.

Lastly, we used to host a WECU jamboree each year which we may want to consider reinstating. Though I can't recall who organised it last, but I believe it took place in West Hill in 2018.

Fixtures Secretary: No report (PM no longer in post but has found a replacement in Graham Stuart - from Hampshire, who will contact County Captains direct. (PM to contact him and set up communication channels).

Congress Secretary: Meyrick Shaw has resigned and no longer in post but submitted a report by email, reproduced here –

As you are all aware, i am unable to continue as the organiser for the WECU congress,
I am however still the treasurer for its account.

The last activity on the account was the COVID aborted congress of 2020. Various entry fees had been received for this and were duly refunded.

The only outstanding item was the £200 deposit paid for the venue. Hopefully this can be refunded, should the hotel not be rebooked for a future event.

As for the bank balance, I believe it to be in the region of £2000, but do not have the statement currently available.

Junior Activities – No report

ECF Delegate – No report

NF attending future ECF Meetings and could, if required, cast votes for WECU.

Jamboree Organiser – No report (Vacant)

Archivist and Publicity Officer – No report (JU stated that Bob Jones no longer in role).

5. Election of Officers

Deferred to Council Meeting

5. Discussion on role of WECU and Chess Championships for the Union area into the future

NF was keen to know the future of WECU Championships and

what direction WECU should take as the Covid pandemic had seemingly “left plans up in the air”.

JU indicated that numbers attending his Club was starting to increase post pandemic. Also, arranging a County Team this year had been a bit of a struggle, but Devon managed to win the 2022 ECF Minor Counties Championship.

JU stated that the WECU Individual Championship needs an Organiser and a venue. Options include offering the Championship to Congresses currently being run in the WECU area, or if an organiser is found, rotating the venue around the Counties (as was the case historically). If a local Congress offers to run the Championship alongside their event, then it would need to be at least 7 rounds in length possibly over 4 days. On the County Chess Championship, a new Fixture Secretary will hopefully be in post soon and it is expected Devon, Cornwall and Somerset will compete again. Both Gloucestershire and Hampshire have a large pool of players but no organiser at present.

NF suggested that Junior chess players should be encouraged to play County Chess and perhaps a rule change might work to boost numbers here.

6. Date of next Meeting –

Thursday 18th August 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

Note: via this will be via Zoom and is to be designated a “Council

Meeting”

6. Any other business –

NF questioned who at WECU would contact local Congress organisers to obtain from one of them the agreement to run the next Individual Chess Championship alongside their event.

GG stated this was not known but remains a priority to find a volunteer soon.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm